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Robert
Election

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

APPLICANT: Martin BERG et al. GROUP ART UNIT: 2854
SERIAL NO.: 10/018,850 EXAMINER: Anthony H. NGUYEN
FILING DATE: December 17, 2001 CONFIRMATION NO.: 8228
INVENTION: "METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PRINTING A BASE MATERIAL
AND CLEANING A PRINTING ROLLER"

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2003, Applicants provisionally elect the species of Figure 3. The election is with traverse. The claims readable on the provisionally elected species include: Claims 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 37.

In the office action, the Examiner required election of a single disclosed species if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable, asserting that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: Figures 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Applicants note that the independent claims are generic to all of the identified species. Further, Applicants submit that all of the claims and each species embodies the inking of the drum impressions and the cleaning of the drum impressions during the printing operation. The Examiner's attention is directed to the enclosed European Patent EP 1 189 754 B1 which issued on the corresponding European application. The claims 1 – 17 are presented in English

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in columns 16 – 19 and include issued claims that are generic to the five species identified by the Examiner. As such, Applicants submit that the generic claims are patentable over the prior art and respectfully request consideration of the generic claims and the claims directed to the disclosed species as well.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the election requirement, and favorable consideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail addressed to:

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on October 27, 2003.

